The speech of Mr. Rajab Maatouk
The General Secretary of ICATU
In the International Trade Union Forum
On
The Economic Globalization and Trade Unions 2014
Beijing _ September 24 – 25 / 2014

- Mr. / President,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the beginning, I convey to you the greetings of our confederation's General Secretariat, and wishes all the success for this forum, which held its tenth session.

I would like to express my sincere congratulations to the companion Jiang Guang Ping, vice-president and member of the Secretariat in the All-China General Federation of Trade Unions for its landslide victory in the elections of the Governing body of the International Labour Organization last June and achieved higher figures, which reflects the prestige and respect reached by All-China Federation of Trade Unions on the level of the world.

I would like to congratulate the leadership of All-China Federation of Trade Unions for hosting this International Forum at its tenth session respectively, and provided all the ways to success its works.
Today, this event takes place at its tenth session under the banner of "reform, development, Dream," which will focus on enhancing the role of trade unions in the exchange and coordination and provide better protection for workers' rights, in addition to strengthen the capacity building of trade union and accelerate economic recovery in the changing world of work within the context of industrial upgrading and restructuring.

We in the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions believe that this forum, which put its foot firmly on the international trade union arena forms and constitutes an important station for each of its participants to exchange views, opinions and ideas by all democracy that would serve the working class in the world, and to provide ways of Global labour solidarity at its highest sense.

The issue of protecting the rights and interests of workers, require no doubt trade union building, on the level of the individual, the trade union leadership and trade union organization, that needs in our appreciation to three basis, the first is trade union freedom, trade union democratic, and trade union independent, we see that without these rules and consolidation, trade unions as labor voluntary organizations can not achieve its desired goals and objectives.

To raise the level of awareness among trade union staff, and with workers affiliated to trade unions in the circumstances of political, economic and social development in their environment is a very important issue, as to not have any trade union leadership ingredients for success while were not at the level of understanding and perception with all the rules of economic, political and trade union action, in its internal, regional and international surroundings.
- Mr. / President,

- Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have not any doubt at all that what is put from issues in front of this forum, are very important, especially with regard to speeding up the economic recovery, and industrial upgrading and restructuring are to upholding the interests of the workers.

We in the International confederation of Arab Trade Unions, and in our member organizations attach great importance to such issues and topics.

We believe that All-China Federation of Trade Unions, and all friendly trade unions, have the right to discuss such issues in an atmosphere of security, stability and civil peace in their countries.

But let us tell you that we came from an area experiencing a violent disturbance that probably never seen in its history before.

The Arab region, which is known in the Middle East and North Africa, with its possibilities and resources that are bound to make their people and their workers living carefree and affluent life, and enables its labour and trade union organizations to look at issues of economic prosperity and social development, living today a state of political instability, and the state of lawlessness, which has turned into wars and sectarian and ethnic conflicts due to terrorist groups that were formed and grew up with the support, funding and arming of the world imperialist powers, claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians, and tens of thousands of wounded, injured and maimed, and destroyed during it the infrastructure, factories, laboratories and public and private property.
Here .. let us ask some questions that we see significant and related to what would be discussed by this forum, as issues and topics:

** Is sustainable development could be achieved in light of the civil wars and armed conflicts?

** Could we achieve progress and economic recovery in the shadow of terrorism and its groups that want our peoples to turn back several centuries?

* Could the workers' organizations and trade unions put within its priorities such issues relating to the raising and capacity building in the shadow of daily death and slaughter of the innocent and the lynching of identity?

* Can we dream in front of what we see daily, morning and evening from nightmares?

- Mr. / President,

- Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are fully aware that these questions are heavy and answer them is such difficult .. We just put them in order to the international public trade union opinion, who is with us now, realize that each region of the world has its circumstances, and if there is a lift for world trade union solidarity slogan .. we feel that the time is now.

And that any discussion about building capacity and raising industry, economic recovery and social prosperity can not be done before the provision of international peace and security, which are the responsibility of the whole world, otherwise we will live in a world of jungle.
The powerful forces have to operate internationally to impose a state of balance in international relations, and to realize that their future and economy are in danger, and also their progress is at risk, if they did not work together to extinguish the fires that intensifying in different places of the world.

We call from here, from the capital of Great China - Beijing in front of this combined international trade union activist and all peace-loving forces to play their role sooner rather than later, to work on struggling terrorism and drain its resources and impose stringent measures on its practitioners, supporters and sponsors whatever they are individuals or governments. It is a priority for us these days because our lives are becoming all in danger.

We love peace, therefore we conclude our words with

Peace upon you